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FARM EQUIPMENT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS IN SINKIANG AND SHANTUNG; CRITICISMS OF PROGRAM IN INNER MONGOLIA

/Summary: Cooperatives in Sinkiang and Shantung report increases in the manufacture of small types and old types of farm equipment. Achievements are said to be generally good, but there is a need for better planning, stronger leadership, and larger loans.

Readers in Inner Mongolia have been complaining in letters to the editor about the poor planning, distribution, and organization of the farm equipment program.

A local area in Chekiang solved its equipment shortage problem by purchasing from other regions and by repairing old farm equipment./

SINKIANG AND SHANTUNG EMPHASIZE FARM EQUIPMENT SUPPLY -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 28 Jul 53

According to a report from a committee of the Northwest Agricultural and Forestry Bureau, in 1953 the Northwest is emphasizing an increase in the production of old-type farm equipment. According to incomplete data from the Nan-ch'eng Special Administrative District, San-yuan, Chao-i, Hsing-p'ing, Yung-shou, Ch'eng-ch'eng, I-chun, and Huang-lung hsiens in Shensi, and from the special administrative districts of Ti-hua, I-li, Ho-tien, and A-k'o-su in Sinkiang, there has been an increase of 509,757 items of old-type farm equipment of all sizes.

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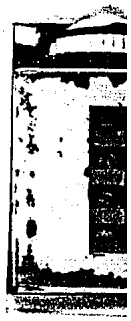

The materials for the increased production of farm equipment in the Northwest were all obtained locally, and the manufacturing was also carried out locally. The supply functions were performed by trading cooperatives. In Sinkiang, the Provincial Agricultural and Forestry Bureau issued a coordinated plan and also implemented technical instruction. The provincial trading companies furnished cast iron to all areas (almost 600 tons were supplied in the spring of 1953). Supply and marketing cooperatives organized forges for processing and manufacturing. The old-type farm equipment produced in Sinkiang is 10-20 percent cheaper than the national market price.

There are still some problems in this activity however. First, development of the movement is not uniform; achievements in some areas are very good, and in others no attention is given to the problem at all. Second, over-all leadership is lacking. With the exception of Sinkiang, the majority of the regions have not promoted co-ordinated programs in 1953; in some areas, after loans were distributed to lower levels no further steps were taken. In areas where there were good results, there has been no summarization of experiences. Third, loans have been too small to meet the needs of the people.

A report from the federation of cooperatives in Shantung states that since the spring of 1953, the cooperatives have met the needs of their members and of the farmers. Besides furnishing new-type farm equipment, the cooperatives are also supplying old-type equipment. Based on incomplete statistics from ten special administrative districts, including Hui-min, Liao-ch'eng, and Lai-yang, over 329,200 items of old-type equipment were issued from January to April 1953. Since the beginning of summer, cooperatives have been supplying all types of harvesting and planting equipment.

For example, during May the Ts'ao Hsien cooperative distributed over 5,000 items of small-type farm implements, 35,000 catties of bamboo branches (for brooms and brushes), and 819 catties of rake pins. The 11 low-level cooperatives of Ts'ao Hsien have organized forges for the processing and manufacture of small, old-type farm equipment. The Chao-hai Cooperative in Yang-ku Hsien sold more than 370 sickles, brooms, and brushes in 2 days. The cooperatives in many regions used raw materials of local origin. Cooperatives also made processing agreements with local handicraft industries, blacksmiths, and carpenters.

In Chao-yuan Hsien, 14 supply and marketing cooperatives and two metal-producing cooperatives entered into working agreements which resulted in sales of 27 types of small farm implements totaling over 7,900 items and worth 120 million yuan. The advantages of this type of working agreement are: The supply and marketing cooperatives have sold their scrap metal and, at the same time, have satisfied the needs of the membership and of the farmers. This method has solved the problem of raw materials for the handicraft production cooperatives and also ensures the on-schedule distribution of products.

This method of local processing and local supplying has also reduced the management expenses of both sides and has increased the profits of the cooperatives. For example, the federated cooperatives of the Wei-fang Municipal Industrial Production Cooperative conducted a joint handicraft industry production and sales conference with the Lin Hsien Supply and Marketing Cooperative. After this conference, contracts were made with cooperatives in other areas for the sale of metal parts for hoes, blades, sickles, etc., in excess of 2,000 items.

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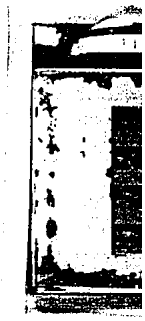

At present, there are two bad features in the supplying of small-type farm tools. First, some supply and marketing cooperatives are not sufficiently familiar with the rural economic situation. Too much attention is given to large-type and new-type equipment, and the great need for small-type equipment has been neglected. Second, during the manufacturing and purchasing period, some low-level cooperatives have not solicited the opinions of the cooperative members concerning prices, type, and amount of equipment needed. This is a great mistake. Buying or manufacturing small-type implements which do not meet the needs of the people can cause a situation where either the supply cannot meet the demand or a surplus is created.

POOR PLANNING TO MEET NEEDS IN K'AI-LU HSIEN -- Wu-lan-hao-t'e, Nei-meng-ku Jih-pao, 20 May 53

In a letter to the editor, a writer stated that during February 1953, in K'ai-lu Hsien, Jehol, there was a movement to stimulate the people to buy new-type farm equipment and agricultural chemicals. At the time, based on the calculations of all villages, a purchasing plan was proposed. It was estimated that 222 cultivators, 197 pumps, 745 walking plows, 15 sprayers, and 4,570 catties of Sa-li-san insecticide were needed.

The writer said that although in some ch'us investigation and publicity were efficient and farm equipment was issued quickly to the farmers, in other ch'u preparations were inadequate, and extremely poor farm equipment was issued. In attempting to solve this problem, the hsien trade cooperatives communicated with the basic level cooperatives to obtain their equipment, but because of the planning there was no response. This was particularly true with reference to pumps; a certain ch'u planned to get 53 pumps but only one was issued. Another ch'u ordered 30 pumps and not even one was issued. However, a large number of cultivators are still on hand. The writer suggested that the leaders in K'ai-lu Hsien take immediate steps to investigate and solve this problem.

K'AI-LU HSIEN COOPERATIVES ISSUE FARMING EQUIPMENT -- Wu-lan-hao-t'e, Nei-meng-ku Jih-pao, 21 May 53

To carry out 1953 agricultural production, improve agricultural skills, and increase individual area production, the trade cooperatives of K'ai-lu Hsien have stocked quantities of drought control and cultivating equipment. Up to the latter part of April, 270 walking plows, 170 liberation type pumps, 253 Tsung-ho type cultivators, 20 sulky plows, 8 compressors, 15 sprayers, and 4,000 hoe handles were brought in. A conference of trade cooperative personnel was held on 28 April to discuss equipment distribution and plan the subsequent demonstration and instruction activities.

The first shipment of 270 walking plows was issued; distribution of the second shipment began 30 April and should be completed in May. At the same time, cadres have been organized to learn the techniques of the new type farm equipment and to demonstrate them to the people.

SCORES AGRICULTURAL STATION IN T'UNG-LIAO HSIEN -- Wu-lan-hao-t'e, Nei-meng-ku Jih-pao, 22 May 53

In a letter to the editor, a writer complained that the agricultural station in the vicinity of Feng-ch'eng, without preparation or planning, had blindly selected five mutual aid teams as farm equipment implementation

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teams. The writer stated that the personnel of the mutual aid teams had not had any technical training, and further, that the arable land is too small in area and too scattered for the use of horse-drawn equipment in 1953. Contrary to the policy and methods of the mutual aid cooperative movement, the agricultural technical organized and combined mutual aid teams too rapidly. This has caused much discontent among the people, said the writer, who suggested that the T'ung-liao People's Government correct this situation.

Another writer complained that farm equipment is not properly protected. He stated that in 1953 T'ung-liao Hsien issued 13 sets of horse-drawn equipment, and with the exception of harvesting implements and walking plows, all of them were distributed to mutual aid teams and cooperatives. However, in some areas implements are left in the open, exposed to wind and rain. The reader cited two villages, Ha-la-hu and Hai-li-shih, where there is no protection for equipment and proposed that technical demonstration stations in all areas give more attention to this problem.

LOCAL CHEKIANG AREA SOLVES FARM EQUIPMENT SHORTAGE -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 24 Jul 53

Hangchow, 19 July (Hsin-hua) -- The Ch'iu-yai Supply and Marketing Cooperative in Yin Hsien, Chekiang, conferred with both farmers and handicraft workers on plans to increase the production of farm equipment and solve the problem of shortages that occurred during the harvest of early rice. The need for farming equipment was very great in Ch'iu-yai Hsien; according to available statistics, more than 2,000 items, including baskets, bamboo mats, and rice buckets, were needed by 260 households.

Early in July, the local people's government called a meeting of delegates from the cooperative, the farmers, and the handicraft workers to discuss the shortage of equipment. It was decided that the cooperative was to purchase equipment from other areas, and that the handicraft workers were to consider the repair of old farm equipment as their main task. As a result, the people repaired equipment needed for the harvest, and the cooperative purchased over 500 urgently needed items along with the raw material needed by the handicraft workers. At present, the demand for the necessary harvesting equipment has been satisfied.

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